

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

July 2020/Tammuz 5780



Dear Friends,

Last month we gathered for the Online Maine Conference for Jewish Life—what a powerful tonic it was to pray, create art, laugh, meditate, and dance together as one dispersed yet unified community. We are grateful to everyone who came to learn and celebrate in a new way in the face of uncertainty and upheaval. And to our teachers and rabbis, from Bangor to Berkeley, from Gorham to the Galilee, what can we say? Our cup is overflowing with gratitude, purpose, and hope.

And now for the rest of the summer! We are planning more services, more learning opportunities, more chances for us to come together. Please read on for information about statewide Shabbat services, virtual children's programming in lieu of the Funtensive, and engaging workshops.

With great anticipation,

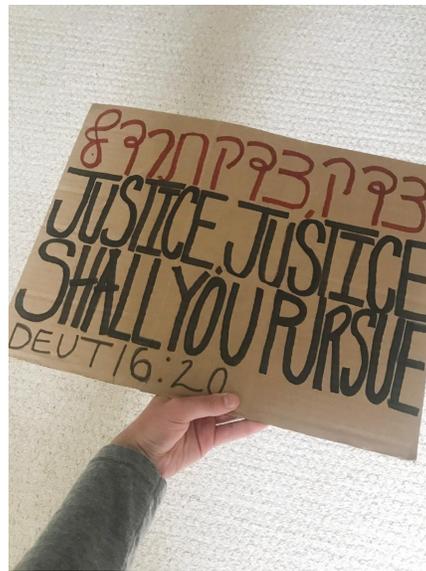
The Center Staff



JEWISH YOUTH CONNECTION PROGRAMS FOR TEENS
TO CONNECT,
LEARN, AND TRAVEL

Social Justice for Teens!
Wednesday, July 15, 7-8 p.m.

Join us on Zoom for a discussion of social justice. What does Judaism say about #BlackLivesMatter? Does the Torah talk about social justice? What about all those texts in the Torah that don't seem particularly just (like the ones that say slavery is okay, and so is stoning a rebellious son)? We'll talk about what the Jewish tradition has to say about all these topics and have a chance to catch up with friends from around the state.



[Register Here!](#)

Online Jewish Learning for Kids July 13-17, 9-10 a.m.



The Mid-Maine Jewish Funtensive typically provides a summer-camp experience for children across the state of Maine focusing on fun and educational Jewish experiences. This year, as with so many things, the Funtensive cannot take place in its traditional format. However, Mel Weiss, CSTJL Director of Summer Programs, has put together entertaining and enriching Jewish programming for kids—over Zoom. We'll meet July 13-17, 9-10 a.m. each day. There will be songs, crafts, stories, Hebrew vocabulary and games, and more! [Check out the event on Facebook](#), and click the button below to register. For any immediate questions, please contact Mel at maweiss@colby.edu.

[Register Here!](#)

Jewish Ethical Wills for the 21st Century with Jay Sherwin

Sunday, July 26, 9:30-11 a.m.

Ethical wills (*tzava'ot* in Hebrew) offer a wonderful opportunity for people to reflect on their values and life lessons and to offer guidance and blessings to their families and loved ones. In this one-session online workshop with Life Review Adviser Jay Sherwin of Portland, we'll briefly review the rich Jewish history of legacy writing—a tradition that begins with Jacob in Genesis 49. Then, through discussion and brief writing exercises, the workshop will offer advice and a model structure to help you begin crafting your own ethical will or legacy letter.



Registration for this program, which is being offered free of charge, is required. In order to allow for discussion, the program is limited to the first 20 registrants. (We will keep a wait list in the event that registrants are unable to join us.) Donations in support of the program are gratefully accepted.

Register Here!

Shabbat, Together • Statewide Shabbat Services

Friday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.



And Mark Your Calendars for services on Friday, August 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The opportunity to pray and welcome Shabbat as a statewide community has filled us with a deep sense of comfort and solidarity these past months. We are excited to offer two more Statewide Shabbat services in July and August, with Maine rabbis and cantors leading part of the Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services. Mark your calendars, and [check our Facebook page for more information.](#)

In order to receive a Zoom link for this event, you must register below. After you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email that contains the link for the service. We will also send out a reminder email the day before the service with relevant links.

Register for July 31 Services Here!

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